

POL90035 Great Power Rivalry: Peace & War in 21C

Credit Points:	12.50
Level:	9 (Graduate/Postgraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2012, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 1, Parkville - Taught on campus.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: Semester 1: A 2-hour seminar per week Total Time Commitment: Not available
Prerequisites:	None
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	Politics and International Studies
Non Allowed Subjects:	None
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Description, Subject Objectives, Generic Skills and Assessment Requirements of this entry. The University is dedicated to provide support to those with special requirements. Further details on the disability support scheme can be found at the Disability Liaison Unit website: http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/
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Subject Overview:	<p>This subject examines the causes of peace and war between the 'great powers' of the contemporary world. It begins with the realist claim that war is basic to international relations and the attendant argument that peace is merely the period of preparation between two wars. This claim is then examined and critically evaluated through a range of literatures – historical and theoretical – and in-depth case studies of great power rivalry of the recent past and today.</p> <p>The analysis will be informed by a consideration of the nature of the international system – why and when it incentivises war and peace – and the internal character of the great powers themselves so as to understand better when and why they choose to fight. Does the quest for security by great powers render other states less secure? Can international law obviate the recurrence of war? Why, despite the evolution of complex international governance mechanisms, do liberal democracies still rely on military force to realise their objectives? Can hegemony be transferred from one state or group of state to another peacefully? Does the nature of autocracy in states such as China and Russia make war with non-autocratic states inevitable? Will rising powers – like China, Brazil and India – become more or less pacific? These questions and many others form our substantial focus.</p>
Objectives:	<p>Students who complete this subject should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Develop a critical understanding of the key issues, challenges, actors, and institutions associated with great power rivalry # Develop an understanding of the relationship between state/national character and the international system # Develop a critical understanding of the main theories of war and peace in international relations # Develop a critical understanding of the debates over why war and peace occur; how war might be stopped/averted and peace restored/maintained

Assessment:	3 x 500 word briefing papers, 10% each (due during semester); 3000 word essay 70% (due during the examination period). Hurdle Requirement: Students are required to attend a minimum of 75% of classes in order to qualify to have their written work assessed. Students who fail to meet this hurdle requirement will be deemed ineligible to submit the final piece of assessment for this subject. Regular participation in class is required. Assessment that is submitted after the due date and up to 10 working days late without an approved extension will be marked on a pass/fail basis only. Assessment that is submitted later than 10 working days will not be accepted or marked. In-class tasks missed without approval will not be marked. All pieces of written work must be submitted to pass this subject.
Prescribed Texts:	All readings will be available on the subject's LMS site.
Recommended Texts:	None
Breadth Options:	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Generic Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Apply research skills and critical methods to a field of inquiry # Develop persuasive arguments on a given topic # Communicate oral and written arguments and ideas effectively # Develop cross-cultural understanding
Related Course(s):	Master of International Relations